



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203 · Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Week Ending August 19, 2012

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. Field activities for the week included chopping silage, haymaking, harvesting apples and preparing for fall seeding.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 19, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	21	78	1

Crop Progress: Corn is 72% at the dough stage, compared with 44% last year and the average of 49%. Corn is 25% at the dent stage, ahead of 16% at this time last year and the average of 19%. Corn is 6% at the mature stage, ahead of 1% at this time last year and the average of 2%. The corn harvest for silage has begun and is 6% complete, compared to 5% at this time last year and the average of 8%. Tobacco harvest has begun and is 25% complete, ahead of 6% at this time last year and the average of 20%. The potato harvest continues and is 40% complete, ahead of last year's 8% and the average of 14%. Third cutting alfalfa continues and is 85% complete, compared with last year's 85% and the 5-year average of 79%. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is 21% complete compared with 11% at this time last year and the average of 13%. The second cutting of timothy/clover is 90% complete, ahead of last year's 87% and the 5-year average of 83%. The peach harvest is 96% complete compared with 65% last year and the 5-year average of 69%. The apple harvest is 43% complete, ahead of 26% at this time last year and the average of 27%. Fall plowing has begun and is 11% complete, ahead of last year's 9% and the average of 9%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 1% very poor, 9% poor, 31% fair, 49% good, and 10% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 54% good, and 12% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 45% fair, 49% good and 6% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 6% very poor, 18% poor, 48% fair, 25% good and 3% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 13% fair, 47% good, and 39% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 12, 2012: Near normal temperatures returned to the nation's mid-section during the week; however, precipitation totals remained well below average, maintaining drought stress on many summer crops. Elsewhere, heavy showers from the central Gulf Coast into the Atlantic Coast States provided much-needed moisture for pastures and immature row crops. Hot, mostly dry weather in the West favored fieldwork and aided small grain dry down. **Corn:** With near-normal temperatures evident throughout much of the nation's heartland, phenological development of this year's corn crop continued at a

rapid pace. Seventeen percent of the crop entered the dough stage during the week, leaving progress—at 78 percent complete—32 percentage points ahead of last year and 29 points ahead of the 5-year average. Limited precipitation in portions of the Corn Belt was expected to help with grain weight in some later planted fields. Elsewhere, producers in some states were chopping corn for silage instead of harvesting it for grain, as it would provide better nutrition for livestock given crop conditions this year. By August 12, forty-two percent of the corn was at or beyond the dent stage, 28 percentage points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of the 5-year average. By week's end, 10 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the mature stage, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest for grain had begun in limited locations by August 12. Overall, 23 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 37 percentage points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** By week's end, 97 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage, 5 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Warm weather and mostly sunny days promoted double-digit pod setting in 11 of the 18 major estimating states during the week. By August 12, eighty-three percent of this year's crop was at or beyond the pod-setting stage, 19 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. As beneficial rain helped to slightly improve crop condition, producers in portions of the Corn Belt continued treating some soybean fields for spider mites. Overall, 30 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week but 31 percentage points below the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** With nearly one week of days suitable for field work, winter wheat producers in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington combined 19 percent or more of their crop during the week. Nationally, 94 percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop was harvested by August 12, six percentage points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of the 5-year average. **Small Grains:** Oat producers had harvested 94 percent of the nation's crop by week's end, 33 percentage points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest advanced 20 percentage points in North Dakota during the week, as favorable weather conditions afforded producers 6 days suitable for fieldwork. With the exception of Minnesota, where harvest was nearly complete, barley growers in the major producing states combined 10 percent or more of their crop during the week. By August 12, forty-five percent of this year's crop was harvested, 39 percentage points ahead of last year and 23 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 60 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from last week and 8 percentage points below the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 19, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 19, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	83	54	69	-2	0.52	3	11.37	-5.23	45	2,333	491	3,575
Franklin_AG	84	51	67	-2	0.28	3	14.72	-4.64	56	2,175	430	3,414
Meadville-Port	81	53	67	1	0.23	4	14.13	-4.85	50	2,235	636	3,489
Clarion	81	50	65	-4	0.53	4	17.56	-2.41	52	1,915	153	3,136
Springboro	83	51	66	-5	0.29	5	14.83	-1.81	56	1,950	115	3,154
Warren	81	48	66	-3	0.96	4	15.47	-3.67	57	2,018	319	3,241
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	43	64	0	0.22	3	16.48	-2.79	54	1,805	555	3,011
Oswayo	78	41	62	-3	0.35	5	15.01	-3.20	51	1,614	236	2,791
Kane	79	43	64	1	0.49	5	18.76	-0.69	58	1,649	418	2,831
Laporte	76	49	64	-5	0.42	4	24.17	6.35	60	1,793	47	3,006
Lock Haven	84	52	70	1	0.57	4	16.37	-1.19	60	2,332	487	3,640
Coudersport_1SW	80	44	64	-2	0.66	4	19.76	1.55	63	1,671	293	2,850
Renovo	83	51	69	0	0.58	4	20.62	3.06	56	2,259	414	3,558
Ridgway	81	47	66	0	0.28	5	15.22	-4.31	58	1,923	527	3,147
Stevenson Dam	82	51	68	3	1.49	4	19.21	-0.32	50	2,159	763	3,440
Towanda	82	49	68	-2	1.29	3	16.66	1.91	58	2,091	331	3,332
Wellsboro	80	45	64	-1	0.22	3	14.04	-0.86	53	1,716	391	2,925
Williamsport	84	53	71	-1	0.60	5	15.38	-2.09	60	2,503	468	3,824
Northeast												
Hawley	79	47	65	-2	0.85	2	15.84	-0.93	53	1,879	375	3,097
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	51	70	0	0.26	3	16.51	0.09	60	2,371	435	3,650
Susquehanna	81	48	67	3	1.87	2	21.22	3.27	55	2,003	562	3,231
West Central												
Butler	84	52	68	-2	0.22	1	13.40	-4.91	51	2,220	413	3,497
New Castle	87	54	70	3	0.12	3	16.62	-0.02	48	2,376	566	3,664
Slippery Rock	86	50	70	3	0.09	3	16.04	-1.73	49	2,288	653	3,568
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	55	69	-2	0.32	3	16.38	0.31	51	2,389	453	3,707
DuBois	78	50	65	-3	0.23	2	14.72	-3.60	50	2,042	358	3,296
Lewistown	86	55	72	1	1.16	4	17.71	0.26	63	2,461	343	3,803
Middletown	85	59	73	-2	2.83	3	21.01	4.07	55	2,759	371	4,122
Prince Gallitzi	81	49	66	-2	0.31	3	18.38	-2.27	49	2,000	449	3,263
Selinsgrove	84	54	69	-2	1.49	3	18.08	0.49	60	2,371	385	3,674
State College	80	54	68	-2	1.32	4	18.86	2.73	62	2,319	402	3,627
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	88	53	72	-2	1.43	2	20.20	1.96	54	2,563	372	3,899
Lehighton	81	52	69	-4	1.42	2	20.02	1.85	61	2,193	75	3,496
Matamoras	84	52	70	1	1.22	4	20.69	2.07	72	2,229	310	3,535
Mt_Pocono	78	47	66	2	1.43	3	19.16	-0.40	63	1,915	590	3,165
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	58	71	2	0.59	2	15.29	-1.92	53	2,652	711	3,981
Indiana_PA	81	54	68	-2	0.40	3	17.62	-2.34	71	2,273	400	3,556
Myersdale	80	50	64	-6	0.15	2	17.70	-1.85	56	1,735	-53	2,975
Chalk_Hill	79	51	64	-8	0.47	2	19.03	-0.14	59	1,850	-215	3,098
Pittsburgh Intl	83	57	70	-1	0.35	2	16.59	0.39	49	2,570	540	3,890
Connellsville	82	55	68	-4	1.00	2	19.30	0.13	60	2,361	296	3,691
Waynesburg	84	55	68	-2	0.33	2	14.74	-3.06	48	2,297	416	3,603
South Central												
Biglerville	86	57	72	-2	0.46	2	18.84	3.18	55	2,580	246	3,930
Everett	83	53	68	-3	0.59	3	18.41	2.73	59	2,129	214	3,425
Hanover	87	57	72	-2	1.19	4	19.44	3.78	58	2,525	191	3,864
Harrisburg_AP	87	57	73	-2	3.00	3	21.77	4.83	57	2,812	417	4,177
South Mountain	81	53	68	-3	1.42	3	23.16	7.09	57	2,082	153	3,369
York	86	55	71	-2	0.87	3	17.20	-0.08	62	2,527	204	3,851
Southeast												
Green Lane	87	56	73	2	1.65	2	20.52	2.71	57	2,543	454	3,893
Hamburg	86	55	72	2	0.99	3	21.33	0.53	59	2,497	582	3,834
West_Chester	89	55	73	0	1.81	3	16.72	-2.72	41	2,523	211	3,851
Lancaster	86	55	72	-1	0.97	2	15.23	-2.99	46	2,645	444	3,984
Neshaminy Falls	89	56	73	1	1.52	4	20.54	-0.26	60	2,628	447	3,996
New Holland	88	58	73	0	1.97	4	19.60	1.38	46	2,685	484	4,057
Philadelphia	90	64	77	2	1.83	3	14.68	-3.07	40	3,056	542	4,445
Philadelphia NE	88	58	75	-2	1.25	3	16.42	-1.33	49	2,806	292	4,176
Reading	89	57	74	2	1.54	4	16.41	-2.87	57	2,798	633	4,156
Sellersville	86	53	70	-2	3.15	3	21.08	3.27	48	2,348	259	3,657
Doylestown_AG	89	57	74	2	1.68	2	20.65	-0.15	51	2,636	455	3,989

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney

Adams County's temperatures have been in the high 60's for mornings and into the 80's during the daytime. On Tuesday morning, early rains accumulated 0.25" in York Springs and then thunder and lightning with no rain in the evening. Then late Tuesday night into Wednesday another 0.25" of rainfall came. Some areas of the county did not receive any of this rain. It was very sporadic. Temperatures were in the 70's over the weekend.

Corn and soybeans continue to grow. Corn is looking better than thought in late June, early July, due to the beneficial rain and the timing to help the crops. Some corn stalks still do not have ears but the later planted corn looks like it will fare better than others, but it all depends on when we receive first frost. Soybeans are getting nice height to them and looking nice for good yields. Hay continues to re-grow and be made. It stays pretty wet in the mornings so isn't the ideal conditions for baling, but farmers are doing what they can to make dry hay. Some soil has been or is being prepared for future seeding of forage crops, wheat, barley and rye.

Peach harvest will be coming to a close before the end of August. This is because the fruit ripened earlier from the unusual weather this year. The yields are turning out pretty good as long as you weren't hit by hailstorms mid July and beginning of August. Apples continue to size and some are now coloring but this is being affected by the temperatures not cooling down in the evenings so it may affect outcome of the color and fresh market folks want nice pretty apples. Early varieties are being harvested and now other varieties also due to being about 2-3 weeks earlier than normal harvest time. Some farms suffered major damage to their apples due to hailstorms. Producers are going to be receiving higher prices for their apples regardless if they go fresh or processing as there are not a lot of states with nice apple crops. Vegetables continue to do well and are being harvested and canned throughout the county. Overall the producers are busy readying equipment for fall harvests and hoping weather conditions stay good for harvesting, and also planting small grains for 2013 crop. Participants are also getting their entries ready for the South Mountain Fair which starts August 21 and runs through 25th held near Arendtsville, PA.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Apple harvest continues to pick up steam. Ginger Gold harvest is completed and Gala harvest will be in full swing this coming week. Honey crisp harvest will also start this coming week. Moisture levels are more than adequate on most farms.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Crops are looking good overall. We received 1.25 inches of rainfall for the week.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Producers last week were getting ready for the 67th year of the Crawford County Fair. It is a great event for the community and especially rewarding for the 4-H participants. The fair runs Aug 18th to the 25th and is the largest agricultural fair in the state.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Crops are all doing well now that rain has returned, and in some areas too much rain has slowed hay harvest. Corn silage is being harvested with average to above average quality for early corn. Pastures have recovered.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

Silos are being prepared for corn silage harvest. Some corn has been chopped to make up for the feed deficit from last year. The once a week rains have helped the soybeans. The farmers are hoping that a good soybean crop will make up for the poor corn yield. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is in progress.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Many peach and apple orchards in the area have no peaches or apples to pick this year. A few apple orchards have certain varieties that have a few apples. Size and quality are all over the board. Soybeans have improved a lot the past two weeks.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Recent rains have improved the condition of the corn and soybeans tremendously. However, there are some fields that have been affected beyond recovery. Weeds are beginning to emerge through the soybean canopy. The main activities for the week were haymaking, spreading lime and making preparations for fall seeding.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

This week had cooler conditions with only a small amount of moisture. Corn continues its early maturity. Later cuttings of alfalfa are yielding well.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Tom Sierzega

Cooler, wetter weather has allowed for much improvement in corn and soybean crops. Rain has slowed some haymaking.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 19, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	11	9	9
Corn, dough	72	44	49
Corn, dent	25	16	19
Corn, mature	6	1	2
Corn silage, harvested	6	5	8
Tobacco, harvested	25	6	20
Potatoes, harvested	40	8	14
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	85	85	79
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	21	11	13
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	90	87	83
Peaches, harvested	96	65	69
Apples, harvested	43	26	27

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 19, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	9	31	49	10
Soybeans	0	3	31	54	12
Quality of hay made	0	0	45	49	6
Pasture	6	18	48	25	3
Apples	1	0	13	47	39

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